

16

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 18, 1998

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Room 18H1  
One White Flint North Building  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Chairwoman Jackson:

It is our understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to change the number of hours of training and experience required for using radioactive materials (I-131) for the treatment of thyroid disease.

While changes may be necessary for some professions who use these materials, we are concerned that the new requirements create an unnecessary burden for physicians, in particular, endocrinologists. Currently, I-131 is used in the treatment of hyperthyroidism and thyroid carcinoma. Endocrinologists have used this material in this capacity for nearly 50 years, with few, if any, problems. Additionally, the clinical use of I-131 by endocrinologists has not expanded to a point which we believe requires new and cumbersome regulations.

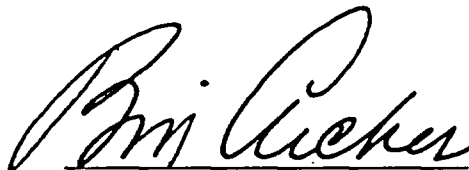
It is our understanding from the endocrinologists in our respective Congressional districts that this regulation will result in higher costs for training these particular physicians and result in fewer newly trained doctors choosing to avail themselves of this specialty. In the end, the American public suffers as less endocrinologists trained in the use of I-131 are available to administer this treatment. We find it troublesome that the NRC would implement this particular regulation without giving proper consideration to the increased cost of the regulation, on both the doctor and patient, relative to the supposed benefits of the regulation. We encourage the NRC to look closely at the arguments posed by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and give careful consideration to the impact of this proposed regulation on the American people.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our input on this important matter, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Ken Bentsen  
Member of Congress



Bill Archer  
Member of Congress

REC'D BY SECY

0 SEP 98 10: 28

Henry Bonilla

Henry Bonilla  
Member of Congress.

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady

Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Mak Sandlin

Mak Sandlin  
Member of Congress

Joe Barton

Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

Charlie Stenholm

Charles Stenholm  
Member of Congress

Richard Armey

Richard Armey  
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson

Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress

Tom Delay

Tom Delay  
Member of Congress

Nick Lampson

Nick Lampson  
Member of Congress

Ron Paul

Ron Paul  
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green  
Member of Congress